

Application No.: 10/577,286
Amendment and Response dated September 11, 2008
Reply to *Ex parte Quayle* Action of August 18, 2008
Docket No.: 903-186 PCT/US/RCE
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): Inspection device for inspecting eggs or fruit objects with a substantially spherical surface, ~~such as for example eggs or fruit~~, comprising:
a conveyor adapted to convey a plurality of eggs or fruit objects placed next to each other in a direction transverse to the conveying direction,
at least one camera for observing the eggs or fruit objects on the conveyor,
a box having a mirroring surface which is positioned above the conveyor and in which the at least one camera is accommodated, the mirroring surface consisting essentially of four reflective side wall mirrors having a coefficient of reflection of at least 0.8, where the four reflective side wall mirrors are side walls that define the box, and
a light source which is accommodated in the box opposite the conveyor for illuminating the eggs or fruit objects from above, the light source having a substantially even light plane directed towards the inside of the box, and which light source, as a result of the mirroring side walls, recurs on all sides so as to provide uniform illumination of the eggs or fruit objects on the conveyor from all sides.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 1, wherein the box is substantially rectangular and has a top cover plate joining the four reflective side walls.

Claims 4-5. (Canceled)

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Claim 6. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 1, wherein the reflective side walls are made from metal.

Claim 7. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 1, wherein the light source is arranged on the top side of the box.

Claim 8. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 7, wherein the light source has a uniform radiation plane.

Claim 9. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 7, wherein the light source comprises one or more lamps which are distributed substantially uniformly.

Claim 10. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 8, wherein the light source is arranged beneath the top cover plate above one or more diffusor plates.

Claims 11-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Previously presented): Inspection device according to claim 1, wherein the device has at least two cameras which are arranged on opposite sides of the box.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): Inspection device according to claim 1 wherein the device comprises a computer which is coupled to the at least one camera in order to compare the observations with predetermined reference values for automatic selection of the eggs or fruit objects.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

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Claim 16. (Currently amended): Inspection device according to claim 1, wherein the conveyor is designed in such a manner that the eggs or fruit objects execute a rolling movement as they are being conveyed.